

suppress peaceful demonstrators who were calling for an elimination of corruption, the expansion of freedoms, and progress toward political and economic reforms. Twenty years later, there still has been no accurate accounting of those who were killed or injured, and we do not know how many hundreds or thousands of activists remain imprisoned. But we do know that thousands living in exile and millions living in China are unable to freely express themselves in their home country, where censorship and repression still drown out peaceful calls for reform.

The People's Republic of China is a proud nation that increasingly is taking its place on the world stage. But if China wants to be fully integrated into the community of nations, it must recognize that the persecution of peaceful movements is unacceptable, and it must act to reverse the objectionable and counterproductive policies exemplified by the Tiananmen Square crackdown. Violations of human rights and international standards of law are not behavior consistent with a modern nation that wants to contribute to the world of international exchange, global trade, and academic cooperation.

The freedoms of expression and assembly are universal rights, and the flames of these liberties burn in all mankind. Today, we speak for the brave voices who were wrongfully silenced 20 years ago, for the families who have been unable to publicly mourn the loss of their loved ones, and for all those who continue to stand up for free expression in China and around the world. I fervently hope that this effort will hasten the day that the unfettered voices of the Chinese people may be heard in Tiananmen Square and throughout China. For though freedom's flames may be smothered, its smoldering embers will always prod ice, as Martin Luther King put it, a certain kind of fire that no water can put out.

IN HONOR OF NATIONAL ARTHRITIS MONTH AND THE MILLIONS OF AMERICANS LIVING WITH ARTHRITIS

HON. FRANK PALLONE, JR.

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 3, 2009

Mr. PALLONE. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize that last month was National Arthritis Awareness Month. This commemoration provided an important opportunity to discuss the serious impact of arthritis, particularly for older Americans, and to highlight the range of treatments available to improve the health and quality of life of individuals with arthritis. However, just because May is over, doesn't mean our awareness of arthritis and the millions of Americans living with arthritis should be any less diminished.

The term arthritis describes more than 100 diseases and conditions affecting the joints. The most common form of arthritis is osteoarthritis, which is a painful chronic condition characterized by the breakdown of the joint's cartilage. Osteoarthritis affects almost 27 million Americans. Older Americans are particularly impacted by this disease, with a third of the population 65 and older affected by osteoarthritis.

Osteoarthritis limits the movement of most patients, and can seriously interfere with basic

activities of daily living. In fact, osteoarthritis of the knee is one of the leading causes of disability among non-institutionalized adults. As an indication of the seriousness of this disease, hospitalizations for osteoarthritis also are on the rise, increasing from about 322,000 in 1993 to 735,000 in 2006.

Fortunately, there are a range of treatments available that can help many individuals with osteoarthritis reduce the pain they experience, minimize damage to their joints, and improve their physical functions. In some cases, these treatments involve lifestyle modifications, such as exercise and weight loss. In other cases, physical therapy or medications can lead to improvements. And even in the more advanced cases of osteoarthritis, including those that have not responded to other treatments, surgical intervention, including debridement, resurfacing, and total joint replacement, can relieve pain and improve joint function.

Given the prevalence of osteoarthritis among the elderly, it is especially important for senior citizens to know that Medicare covers a wide range of osteoarthritis treatments. Doctor's visits, physical therapy, and surgical procedures, including total joint replacement surgery, all may be covered by Medicare if medically appropriate. It is also important to ensure that Medicare beneficiaries with advanced OA do not forgo medically necessary joint replacement procedures because of concerns about copayments, since pain and disability can get progressively worse when such procedures are delayed. In fact, most Medicare beneficiaries have supplemental coverage, such as Medigap or employer-provided insurance, to help pay the premium, deductible, and coinsurance associated with joint replacement surgery. Fear about copayments should not stand in the way of a beneficiary obtaining relief from this painful and debilitating disease.

Whether it be National Arthritis Awareness month or any month, individuals with arthritis should take the opportunity to talk to their doctors about lifestyle changes and other treatments available to help them manage their condition. With appropriate care, individuals with arthritis can take steps to live active, pain free lives.

RECOGNIZING THE 50TH ANNIVERSARY OF STS. VARTANANTZ ARMENIAN APOSTOLIC CHURCH OF RIDGEFIELD, NEW JERSEY

HON. STEVEN R. ROTHMAN

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 3, 2009

Mr. ROTHMAN. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the 50th anniversary of Sts. Vartanantz Armenian Apostolic Church of Ridgefield, New Jersey.

On May 19, 1957, a community's dream began to take shape. On that day, ground was broken for what was then known as the Armenian Apostolic Church of New Jersey. In two short years, the Armenian American community of Bergen County came together and raised the necessary funds to realize the dream of building a church.

On May 3, 1959, the church was consecrated by His Eminence Archbishop Khoren Paroyian, Nuncio of His Holiness Zareh I, Catholicos of the Great House of Cilicia.

Sts. Vartanantz today stands as a beacon of Armenian American community life in Bergen County with its Sunday school, the Nareg Saturday Armenian School, the ladies guild, the men's club, the seniors groups, and several cultural, youth, educational, and fraternal organizations working to perpetuate the Armenian faith and heritage.

I extend my congratulations to the pastor, Rev. Fr. Hovnan Bozoian, the Board of Trustees, and all members and friends of Sts. Vartanantz and wish them many more years of growth and service to the Armenian American community.

I sincerely hope that my colleagues will join me in celebrating the 50th anniversary of Sts. Vartanantz Church for its contributions to the Armenian American residents of Bergen County, as well the larger Armenian American community in the United States.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. HOWARD COBLE

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 3, 2009

Mr. COBLE. Madam Speaker, yesterday my flight was cancelled due to weather and I missed the three suspension votes.

On rollcall No. 292—H. Res. 421—Recognizing and commending the Great Smoky Mountains National Park on its 75th year anniversary, I would have voted "aye."

On rollcall No. 293—H.J. Res. 40—Native American Heritage Day Act of 2009, I would have voted "aye."

On rollcall No. 294—H. Res. 489—Recognizing the 20th anniversary of the brutal suppression of protesters and citizens in and around Tiananmen Square, I would have voted "aye."

RECOGNIZING 65TH ANNIVERSARY OF ALLIED LANDING ON D-DAY

HON. TED POE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 3, 2009

Mr. POE of Texas. Madam Speaker, "We shall not flinch or fail. We shall go on to the end. . . . We shall fight on the seas and oceans. We shall fight with growing strength in the air. We shall defend . . . whatever the cost may be. We shall fight on the beaches. We shall fight on the landing grounds. We shall fight in the fields and in the streets. We shall fight everywhere. We shall never surrender."

Winston Churchill said this showing the dedication of our armed forces. They never give up; and, of course, they never give in.

Churchill was right, Madam Speaker. In WWII, American troops did not flinch—they fought wherever and whenever they were needed—to the very end.

For many young Americans, 31,000, to be specific, that courage took them to the beaches of Normandy, France.

And for more than 6,000 Americans that meant giving everything they had for the cause of liberty and freedom.

This July 6th marks the 65th anniversary of the infamous D-day.